



Special Edition 2004
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Fair Housing News



In this issue:

- Fair Housing Month Message from the Assistant Secretary
- HUD Kicks Off Fair Housing Month with Awards Ceremony
- HUD Events Highlight Fair Housing Issues
- Spotlight: Northwest Fair Housing Van Tour
- Fair Housing Partners Celebrate Fair Housing Month

Our Mission

To create equal housing opportunities for all persons in America by administering laws that prohibit discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, and familial status.

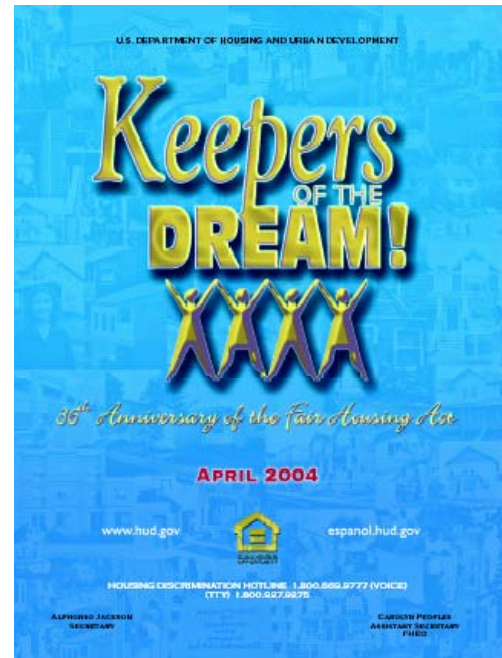
Fair Housing Month Message From the Assistant Secretary

This past April, America celebrated the 36th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, the landmark civil-rights law that makes it illegal to discriminate in housing transactions on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, and disability. Each April, HUD honors this occasion with celebrations throughout the country.

The Fair Housing Act has opened housing opportunities for many in America by eliminating many discriminatory institutional policies and reducing the instances of housing discrimination.

However, our work is not done. Recent HUD housing discrimination studies show that minorities receive less favorable treatment than whites when searching for housing. Furthermore, the legacy of discriminatory policies continues to be reflected in the disparities in home values and the homeownership rates between whites and minorities.

The Fair Housing Month theme for this year, "Keepers of the Dream," describes the role HUD plays in ensuring fair housing and equal opportunity for all. HUD will continue to be keepers of the dream by using enforcement and education to address housing discrimination.



This special edition of *Fair Housing News* highlights some of the events held throughout the country to observe Fair Housing Month. We thank everyone who joined us in our celebration.

Together, we can all be "Keepers of the Dream."

Carolyn J. Peoples

HUD Kicks off Fair Housing Month with Awards Ceremony

On April 1, HUD kicked off Fair Housing Month with an opening ceremony and awards program in Mobile, Alabama.

Assistant Secretary Carolyn Peoples received Fair Housing Month proclamations from Mobile Mayor Michael Dow and Alabama Governor Bob Riley.

The awards ceremony recognized 14 individuals for their outstanding contributions to fair housing.

HUD awarded the Samuel J. Simmons Lifetime Achievement Award to Herman J. Russell, Sr. HUD presented the Pioneer Award to eleven individuals for being trailblazers in the field of fair housing and the Courage Award to two individuals who have fearlessly exercised their civil rights.

See the back page for a complete list of award recipients.

Fair Housing News

HUD Events Highlight Fair Housing Issues

HUD field offices throughout the country held Fair Housing Month events to celebrate the achievements of the past and discuss the next steps in achieving fair housing for all.

Events were held in over 17 cities. Assistant Secretary Carolyn Peoples participated in many of these events, reminding everyone that as fair housing professionals we must make sure that no person's housing choice is limited because of their race, nationality, or on any other unlawful basis.

The following are a few of these events.

Boston, Massachusetts

On April 6, the HUD Boston field office in partnership with Suffolk University Law School hosted a Fair

Housing Forum. Assistant Secretary Carolyn Peoples gave the keynote address, which was followed by a panel discussion on the relationship between the Fair Housing Act and the lead based paint laws.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

On April 9, the HUD Oklahoma City field office held a fair housing conference. The topics discussed included fair housing enforcement, landlord and tenant issues, disability and familial status discrimination, and predatory lending. The event was followed by the Metropolitan Fair Housing Council's banquet where Assistant Secretary Carolyn Peoples gave the keynote address.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

On April 13, the HUD Philadelphia field office held a Fair Housing

Summit. The summit addressed topics such as accessibility, predatory lending, financial literacy, and rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act. Assistant Secretary Carolyn Peoples gave the keynote address.

Chicago, Illinois

On April 14, the HUD Chicago field office in partnership with the Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities, the National Association of Realtors, and other local fair housing and housing industry groups held a seminar on the "Psychology of Discrimination." Assistant Secretary Carolyn Peoples participated in the event, which was one of three outreach activities the Chicago field office conducted for Fair Housing Month. The office also conducted outreach to faith-based institutions and the Hispanic community.



Spotlight: Fair Housing Van Tours Northwest

On April 12, HUD's Northwest Regional Office celebrated Fair Housing Month by boarding a "fair housing van" and beginning a three-state tour across Oregon, Washington, and Idaho to deliver fair housing information.

The tour started in Portland, Oregon with a kickoff event that included local officials and fair housing and industry partners. Similar events were also held in Seattle, Washington and Boise, Idaho at the beginning of second and third weeks of the tour respectively.

In each city, fair housing van staff distributed fair housing information to local government offices, community agencies, advocacy groups, and at local establishments,



Boise Mayor David H. Bieter, Assistant Secretary Carolyn Peoples, Northwest HUB Director Judith Keeler, and Field Office Director Connie Hogland at the Boise, Idaho fair housing van event.

such as ethnic grocery stores and college campuses.

In addition to distributing fair housing material, staff members established contacts with

community groups and exchanged ideas on how to work together.

The tour enjoyed support from many local officials, community leaders, and residents. City officials in 16 communities issued Fair Housing Month proclamations in connection with the van's visit to their jurisdictions. Several hundred individuals and organizations signed the guest register, and local newspapers and radio and television stations covered the events.

In all, the fair housing van visited 33 cities in three weeks, bringing the fair housing message and making connections with hundreds of community leaders and residents.

Fair Housing News

Fair Housing Partners Celebrate Fair Housing Month

HUD partners under the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) and the Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) celebrated Fair Housing Month by hosting fair housing events and conducting education and outreach in their communities.

Assistant Secretary Carolyn Peoples took part in many of these events, using the anniversary of the Fair Housing Act as an opportunity to celebrate past fair housing and civil rights accomplishments. She participated in events throughout the country to promote Fair Housing Month, where she often had the opportunity to address audiences of hundreds of housing industry professionals, fair housing advocates, and government officials.

Assistant Secretary Peoples emphasized the importance of homeownership and described the types of housing discrimination uncovered by recent housing discrimination studies.

Assistant Secretary Peoples also discussed several HUD initiatives designed to improve HUD enforcement efforts, increase minority homeownership, educate the public on their fair housing rights, and increase compliance with the accessibility requirements of the Fair Housing Act. She urged everyone to work together to achieve fair housing for all.

The following are a few of the Fair Housing Month events that were held by HUD fair housing partners.

Denver, Colorado

On March 31, the Colorado Civil Rights Division, a FHAP agency, held the first annual Colorado Fair Housing Summit. The summit focused on the joint efforts of HUD the Colorado Civil Rights Division,



From Left to Right: HOME Executive Director Scott Gehl, HOME Associate Director Andrea Mughid-Moore, Buffalo Lead EOS Charles Martin, Assistant Secretary Carolyn Peoples, NY/NJ HUB Director Stanley Seidenfeld

and other housing advocates to address fair housing issues throughout the state, particularly predatory lending. The summit also addressed how the agencies could work together to improve the timeliness of fair housing enforcement actions and conduct effective education and outreach activities. The summit also included the release of the results of the Colorado Fair Housing Survey.

Des Moines, Iowa

On April 8, the Des Moines Human Relations Commission, a FHAP agency, hosted the 18th Annual Human Rights Symposium. The symposium discussed several issues including fair housing law and accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Assistant Secretary Carolyn Peoples gave the keynote address.

Sacramento, California

On April 19, Assistant Secretary Carolyn Peoples, was the keynote speaker at the "Keepers of the Dream" Fair Housing Awards Luncheon. Awards were presented to affordable housing managers and owners. The Human Rights/Fair



Regina Austin, HEED Board President, presents Assistant Secretary Carolyn Peoples with a plaque for her outstanding service in fair housing, civil rights, and economic justice.

Housing Commission of the City and County of Sacramento, a FHAP agency, sponsored the event.

Buffalo, New York

On April 27, Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) hosted its 41st Annual Meeting and Dinner. HOME, a FHIP partner, is a civil rights organization that provides fair housing assistance and housing counseling in western New York. Assistant Secretary Carolyn Peoples was the keynote speaker at the event. HOME's Executive Director, Scott Gehl, is also a 2004 Fair Housing Pioneer Award recipient.

Jackson, Mississippi

On April 30, Housing Education and Economic Development (HEED), a FHIP partner, held its 15th Annual Fair Housing Banquet celebrating 15 years as a comprehensive housing counseling and fair housing agency. Assistant Secretary Carolyn Peoples gave the keynote address at this event. The two-day conference discussed a number of fair housing issues, such as predatory lending and sales and rental discrimination.

HUD Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity

**451 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC
20410**

If you feel your housing rights have been violated, you can file a fair housing complaint by:

**Calling: 1-800-669-9777
TTY: 1-800-927-9275**

OR

Complete an online form at:

www.hud.gov/fairhousing



Fair Housing Month Award Recipients

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

- Herman J. Russell, Sr., *Chairman & CEO of H. J. Russell & Company*

PIONEER AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Stella Adams, *Executive Director of the North Carolina Fair Housing Center*
- John Baugh, Ph.D., *Professor of Education & Linguistics, Stanford University*
- Alvin Brooks, *Mayor Pro-Tem, Kansas City, Kansas*
- Frances Carter, *President, Meyers Ridge Tenant Council, McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania*
- Nadine Cohen, *Attorney, Boston Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights*
- Scott Gehl, *Executive Director, Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME), New York*
- Mary Scott Knoll, *Executive Director, Fair Housing Council of San Diego*
- Janice R. Leverette, *Executive Administrator, Fair Housing Agency of Alabama*
- Galen Martin, *Executive Director & Attorney, Kentucky Fair Housing Council*
- Jackie Simon, *Community Leader, Montgomery County, Maryland*
- Nancy Snow, *Staff Investigator, Colorado Civil Rights Division*

COURAGE AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Patricia Holliday, *Vice Chairman, Annapolis Housing Authority Board of Commissioners*
- John Henry Robinson, *Equal Opportunity Assistant, HUD Office of Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity, Chicago, Illinois*

**HUD OFFICE OF FAIR
HOUSING AND EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY**

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